



Késsinnimek - Roots - Racines

Joseph Payant dit Saintonge and the Montcalm Family

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Version française

Translated and adapted from the original by Jacques Saintonge (with permission)

PART I

Joseph Payant dit Saintonge, eldest son of soldier-cobbler Jacques Payant, who came to Québec with the Compagnies Franches de la Marine at the end of the 17th century, probably had no notion, during his lifetime, that many of his descendants would drop the family surname, and adopt the name Montcalm. Yet that is what happened some half-century after his death. Joseph Payant, called "the Admiral of Lake Champlain because of the important part he played in the defense of those waters during the Seven Years War, under the command of Montcalm and his Lieutenant Bourlamaque, he ended his career in 1760, when French dominion in New France was coming to an end.

Childhood

Born of Jacques Payan's first marriage, to Louise Morin, Joseph was born in Quebec on February 19, 1700, and was baptized that day as Joseph Jacques, by Messire Pierre Poquet. His godparents were Joseph Morin and Marguerite Gauthier. During his lifetime, Joseph would be witness to the significant events in the life of his family, signing documents in a firm and elegant hand, evidence of an education well above the average for children in this era. Eight months after the death of Louise Morin in February 1710, Jacques Payan would enter a second marriage with Marguerite Sedilot. During the parish census of 1716, the family was domiciled at Rue des Pauvres, facing the Hotel-Dieu. The pioneer was 57 years of age, his spouse 30 years younger. Children of both marriages included Joseph, Pierre, Charles, and Marie-Charlotte.

The house on Rue des Pauvres, where Jacques Payan practiced the shoemaker's trade, was

purchased from Denis Mallet in August 1700, several months before the birth of Joseph. In October, Jacques Payan sailed to France "on business", spending three years there before returning to Québec. In the meantime, Pierre Morin made up for the absence of his son-in-law at the family home.

Joseph Marries and Settles Down

While his father was in France, Joseph, at the age of 20, took a wife. The rites were presided over by Thomas Thibault, second pastor of Notre-Dame, on 2 November 1721. The bride was Marie-Jeanne Legris, 21 years of age, daughter of Jean and of Marie-Geneviève, residents of rivière Saint-Charles. That afternoon, the young couple, together with family and friends, visited the offices of Notary Jean-Etienne Dubreuil, for the reading of the prenuptial agreement. Joseph, whose dower was set at 1000 livres, would hold ownership in common with his wife of all goods and properties, whose father pledged to give the couple in the following spring, a cow "already wintered", valued at 30 livres.

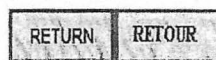
On 2 February 1724, Marie LeRoy, widow of Georges Regnard du Plessis, former treasurer of La Marine, acknowledged sale to Joseph Payant of a parcel of land 50 feet in frontage and 36½ feet in depth, on Rue Saint Flavien. It is probably at this house that most, if not all, of the children of Joseph Payant and Marie-Jeanne Legris were born. Seven boys and three girls were baptized at Québec between 1722 and 1740, seven of whom reached adulthood and married.

1. Louis-Joseph, born 11, baptized 12 August 1722. Married at Québec to Geneviève Daleret. Died 27, buried 28 December 1768 at St-Ours.
2. Dominique, born 22, baptized 23 November 1724. Married at Chambly to Marie-Louise Laporte. Buried 29 July 1778 at St-Ours.
3. Jean-Baptiste, born 2, baptized 3 April 1726. Married at Laprairie to Catherine Lérigé-Laplane. Died 10, buried 12 September 1808 at Laprairie.
- 4. Pierre-François, born and baptized 11 March 1729. Died 26, buried 27 July of the same year.
5. Jean-Marie, born 11, baptized 12 June 1730. Married at Kamouraska in 1757 to Rosalie Lebel. Died 20, buried 21 November 1803 at Kamouraska.
- 6. Marie-Angélique, baptized 3 February 1732, buried 4 July of that year.
7. Nicolas, baptized 1 October 1733. Married at Fort St-Jean in 1748, to Marie-Rose Lériger-Laplane. Died 2, 4 March 1778, at Laprairie.
- 8. Marie-Jeanne, baptized 20 May 1735, buried at Laprairie on 4 March of the following year.
9. Louis, baptized 21 September 1737. Married at Laprairie in 1766 to Monique Lefort. Died 6, buried 8 November 1789 at St-Philippe de Laprairie.
10. Marie-Joséphé, baptized 22 May 1740. First marriage in 1759 to Guillaume Delprat at Laprairie; second marriage there in 1762 to Ignace Rigobert Pinsonneaut. Date of death unknown.

During the parish census of Quebec in 1744, Joseph Payant was counted among the seven

residents along the river bank at Rue Saint Flavien. He was listed as 43 years of age, practicing the blacksmith's trade. Also listed are Marie Legris, his spouse, and their children Louis-Joseph, Dominique, Jean-Baptiste, Jean-Marie, Nicolas, Louis and Marie-Josephe. The household also included Marie-Anne Saint Onge, youngest sister of Joseph, and a lodger, Thomas Caret.

Some years earlier, in 1726, Joseph Payant had renounced his rights to inheritance from his late mother and his father in favor of his brothers and sisters "both germane and consanguine" in return for a mulch cow which his feather promised to deliver on 15 October of that year, as well as four pewter plates and a skillet. Patriarch Jacques Payan died suddenly ten years later, and was buried at Quebec on 27 June 1736. It was Joseph who petitioned for the inventory of the possessions of his late father. The document, drawn up by Notary Jacques Pinguet on 29 April 1737 indicates that Jacques Payan left to his heirs only a few personal possessions, which were barely sufficient to meet the burial expenses and the stipends for a few Masses.



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